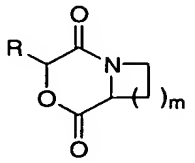
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



I

R is

a) C_{1-6} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C_{6-10} aryl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or

b) a 6-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl ring system, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino; and

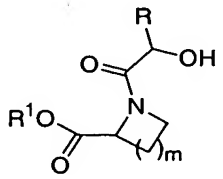
m is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

2. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is unsubstituted C_{1-6} alkyl.

3. The compound of claim 2 wherein R is tert butyl.

4. The compound of claim 1 wherein m is 1.

5. A compound of formula IV or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



IV

R is

a) C_{1-6} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C_{6-10} aryl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or

b) a 6-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl ring system, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino;

R^1 is

a) C_{1-6} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C_{6-10} aryl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino;

b) benzyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or

c) hydrogen; and

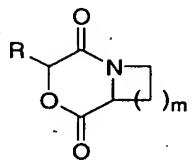
m is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

6. The compound of claim 5 wherein R is unsubstituted C_{1-6} alkyl.

7. The compound of claim 6 wherein R is tert butyl and m is 1.

8. The compound of claim 5 wherein R^1 is methyl and m is 1.

9. A process of preparing a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



I

wherein

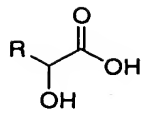
R is

a) C_{1-6} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C_{6-10} aryl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or

b) a 6-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl ring system, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino; and

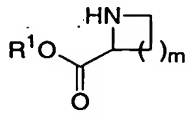
m is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, comprising

1) coupling a hydroxy acid of formula II



II

in presence of a peptide coupling reagent with a compound of formula III or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



III

wherein

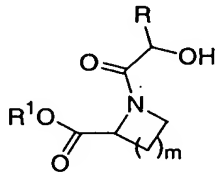
R^1 is

a) C_{1-6} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C_{6-10} aryl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino;

b) benzyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or

c) hydrogen;

to produce a hydroxyamide of formula IV;



IV ; and

2) cyclizing the hydroxyamide of formula IV in the presence of an acid to produce formula I.

10. The process of claim 9 wherein R is unsubstituted C_{1-6} alkyl.

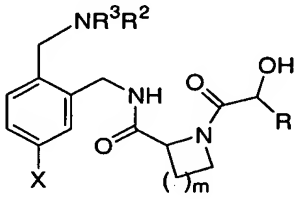
11. The process of claim 10 wherein R is tert butyl and m=1.

12. The process of claim 9 wherein R^1 is methyl and m is 1.

13. The process of claim 9 wherein the peptide coupling reagent is 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride.

14. The process of claim 9 wherein the acid is toluene sulfonic acid.

15. A process of preparing a compound of general formula V



V

wherein

R is

a) C_{1-6} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C_{6-10} aryl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or

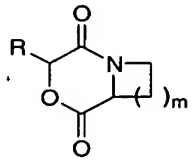
b) 6-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino group;

R^2 is an amino protecting group;

m, is 1, 2, 3, 4,or 5; and

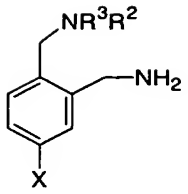
X is a halogen selected from the group consisting of F, Br, I, or Cl; comprising

1) coupling a compound of formula I,



I

in the presence of a solvent, with a compound of the general formula



to form a compound of formula V.

16. The process of claim 15 wherein R^2 is tert butoxy carbonyl or carbobenzoxy.

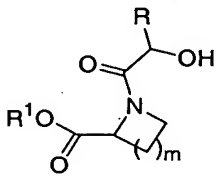
17. The process of claim 15 wherein R is unsubstituted C_{1-6} alkyl.

18. The process of claim 17 wherein R is tert butyl.

19. The process of claim 15 wherein the solvent is a polar solvent selected from the group of consisting of triethylamine, isopropyl alcohol, N-methyl pyrrolidinone, dimethylformamide, diisopropyethylamine, CH_3CN, and tetrahydrofuran.

20. The process of claim 15 wherein R^3 is hydrogen.

21. A process of preparing a compound of formula IV or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



IV

wherein

R is

a) C_{1-6} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C_{6-10} aryl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or

b) a 6-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl ring system, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino; and

m is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; and

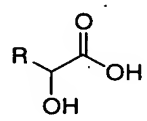
R^1 is

a) C_{1-6} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C_{6-10} aryl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino;

b) benzyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or

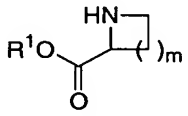
c) hydrogen;

comprising coupling a hydroxy acid of formula II



II

in presence of a peptide coupling reagent, with a compound of formula III or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



III

to produce a compound of formula IV.